

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 11319 012026Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 11319

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP: SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 230544, (B) STATE 237034, (C) LAGOS 11302

1. PARA FOUR OF LAGOS 11302 WAS INTENDED AS REPLY TO STATE 230540. WE REGRET IT DID NOT SO INDICATE. AS NOTED IN LAGOS 11302, MEA IS TAKING THE ATTITUDE THAT THEY CANNOT TACKLE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT UNTIL PREPARATIONS FOR OBASANJO'S TRIP TO THE US ARE OUT OF THE WAY.

2. AS OF POSSIBLE USE IN PUTTING TOGETHER TENTATIVE INDICATIVE SCHEDULE FOR LAGOS VISIT, FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS

OF ENGAGEMENTS WE BELIEVE USEFUL TO CONSIDER AND LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO FMG:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, MEETING WITH GENERAL OBASANJO AT DODAN BARRACKS, FOLLOWED BY VISITS TO NATIONAL THEATER AND CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, LUNCHEON HOSTED BY CHIEF OF STAFF YAR 'ADUA, VISIT TO LAGOS TRADE FAIR AND AMERICAN PAVILLIONS, PRIVATE TIME, AND STATE DINNER HOSTED BY OBASANJO..

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26: BREAKFAST AT AMBASSADOR'S
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RESIDENCE WITH AMERICAN COMMUNITY, FOLLOWED BY DEPARTRE FOR AIRPORT.

3. AS INDICATED IN LAGOS 11071, WE ARE INCLINED RECOMMEND SEPARATE SCHEDULE FOR MRS. CARTER AND WILL BE SUBMITTING IDEAS WITHIN FRAMEWORK SUGGESTED IN STATE 235949.

4. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT MEA'S RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS PRESIDENTIAL TRIP SCHEDULING IS DUE AT LEAST IN PART TO APPREHENSION, PARTICULARLY IN GARBA'S ABSENCE, THAT OBASANJO WOULD BE IRRITATED IF THEY APPROACHED HIM ON THESE QUESTIONS BEFORE ALL DETAILS OF HIS OWN VISIT HAD BEEN PINNED DOWN. WE ANTICIPATE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY AND FRICTION SHOULD WE PUSH FOR FMG VIEWS ON PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE PRIOR TO OBASANJO'S VISIT. OPPORTUNE TIME FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF PRESIDENT'S NIGERIAN SCHEDULE WOULD IN FACT BE DURING OBASANJO'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. WE WILL RAISE SCHEDULING QUESTION AGAIN AT MEA ON MONDAY BUT IF WE ENCOUNTER SAME RELUCTANCE AS BEFORE WOULD PROPOSE ASK MEA TO INFORM OBASANJO THAT QUESTION OF PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IN LAGOS WOULD BE RAISED WITH HIM AND PARTY IN WASHINGTON. WE BELIEVE THIS TACTIC WOULD ASSURE THAT OBASANJO WOULD DISCUSS PRESIDENT'S LAGOS SCHEDULE WITH HIS ADVISORS BEFORE HE DEPARTS FOR US AND WOULD THUS BE IN POSITION TO AUTHORIZE GARBA TO PROPOSE DEFINITE SCHEDULE OPTIONS DURING WASHINGTON VISIT. DETAILS LIKE DRIVING TIMES, ETC., COULD THEN BE READILY WORKED OUT BETWEEN EASUM AND GARBA.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON SCENARIO PROPOSED IN PARAGRAPH 4.

EASUM

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